

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 4-12 were pending. Claims 4 and 10-11 have been rewritten and Claims 7-9 cancelled. No new matter has been added as a result of the amendment.

Rejection of Claims


Claims 4-8 were rejected under U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Apel (U.S. Patent 5,208,726) in view of Hagerup (U.S. Patent 6,477,054). Claims 9-12 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant has rewritten Claim 4 to incorporate the elements of Claim 9 and submits the pending claims are in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the amendments above, Applicant seeks an allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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